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PATENT

IS-US040596

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kazuya SUGIMURA et al.

Serial No.: National Entry of PCT JP2004/009002

Filed: Herewith

June 25, 2004 (International Filing Date)

For: SEASONING PROCESSING SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the subject application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the <u>Listing of Claims</u>, which begins on page 8 of this paper. Claims 1-16 are pending, with claims 1 and 9 being the only independent claims.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.